DC
SUPERMAN
STARRING IN
ACTION COMICS
ALL NEW!
60¢
NO. 530
APRIL
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
ACTION-PLUS WITH AQUAMAN AND THE ATOM!
SUPERMAN! SAVE ME!
NO WAY, BRAINIAC! I CAN'T EVEN SAVE MYSELF!
ANDRU & GIORDANO
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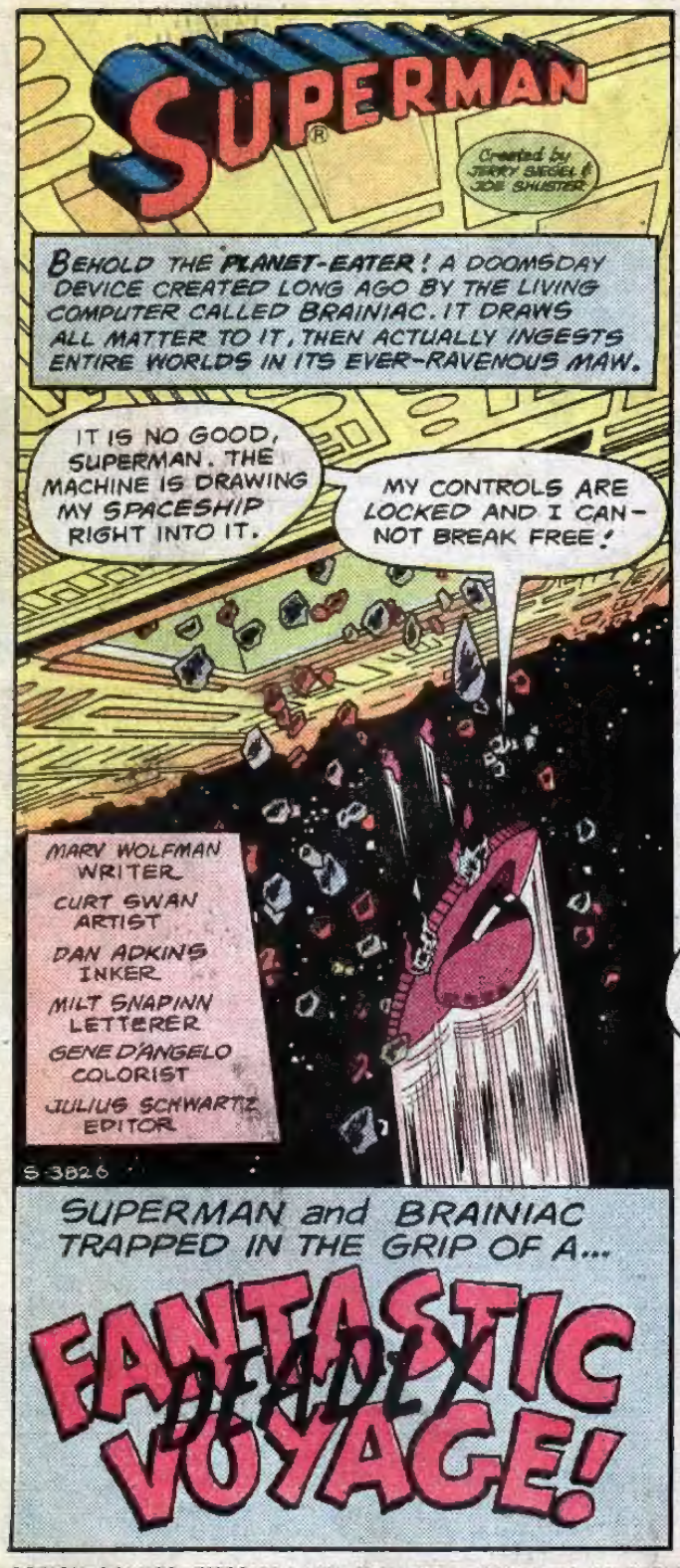
SUPERMAN
Created by JERRY SIEGEL & JOE SHUSTER
BEHOLD THE PLANET-EATER! A DOOMSDAY DEVICE CREATED LONG AGO BY THE LIVING COMPUTER CALLED BRAINIAC. IT DRAWS ALL MATTER TO IT, THEN ACTUALLY INGESTS ENTIRE WORLDS IN ITS EVER-RAVENOUS MAW.
IT IS NO GOOD, SUPERMAN. THE MACHINE IS DRAWING MY SPACESHIP RIGHT INTO IT.
MY CONTROLS ARE LOCKED AND I CANNOT BREAK FREE!
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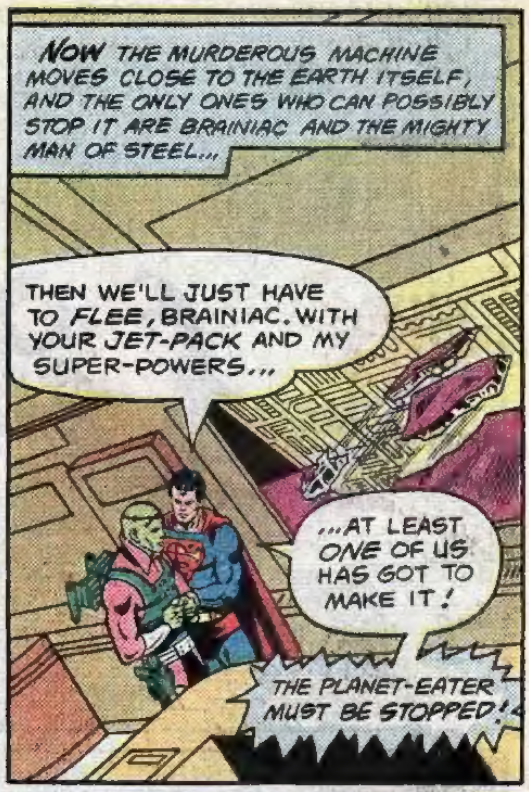
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR
S-3826


NOW THE MURDEROUS MACHINE MOVES CLOSE TO THE EARTH ITSELF, AND THE ONLY ONES WHO CAN POSSIBLY STOP IT ARE BRAINIAC AND THE MIGHTY MAN OF STEEL...
THEN WE'LL JUST HAVE TO FLEE, BRAINIAC. WITH YOUR JET-PACK AND MY SUPER-POWERS...
...AT LEAST ONE OF US HAS GOT TO MAKE IT!
THE PLANET-EATER MUST BE STOPPED!

YOU'LL BE ALL RIGHT IN SPACE WITHOUT A HELMET--?
OF COURSE! I'M A COMPUTER! I DO NOT NEED AIR TO BREATHE!
ALL RIGHT. I AM READY! LET US GO!

SUPERMAN and BRAINIAC TRAPPED IN THE GRIP OF A...

FANTASTIC VOYAGE!

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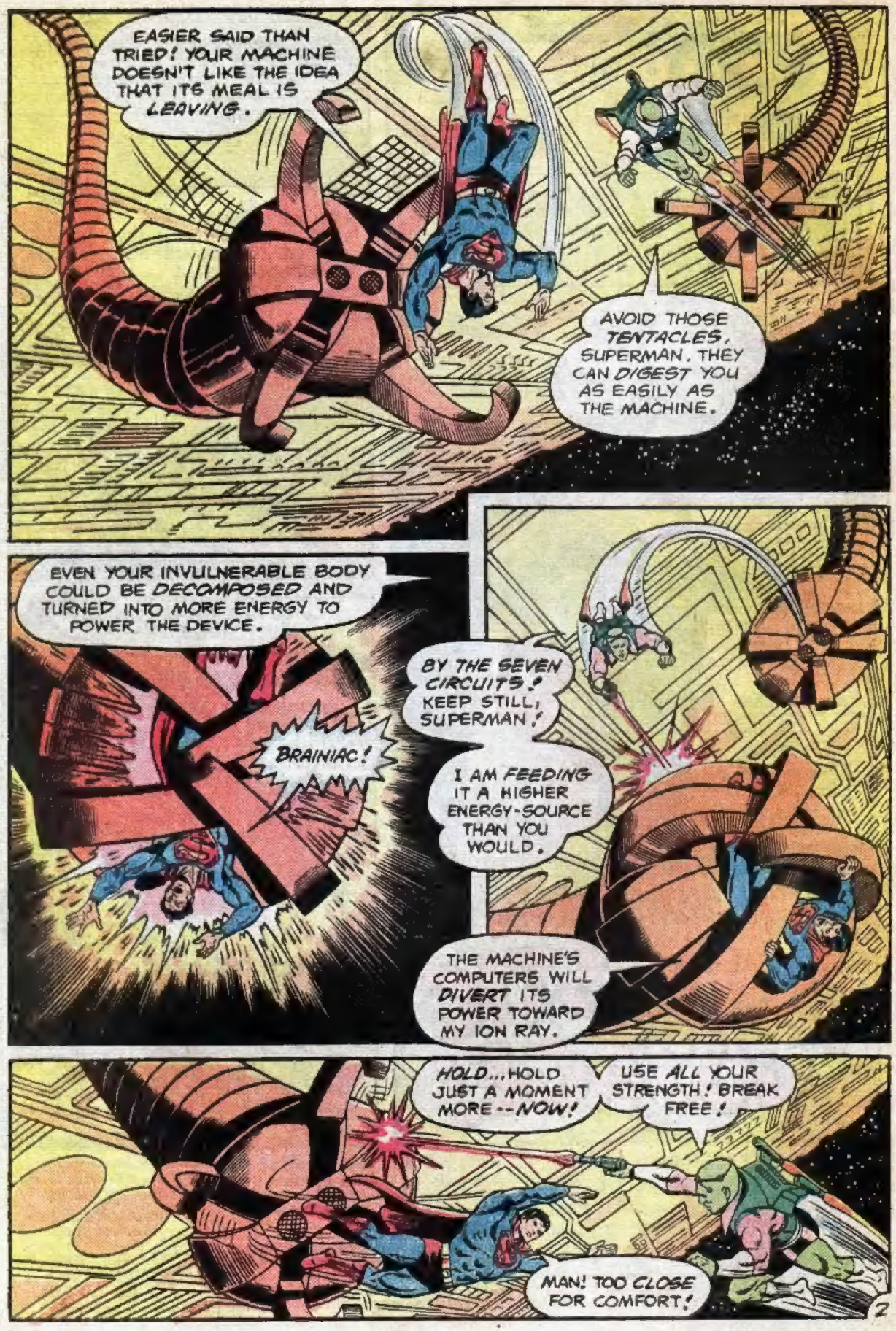
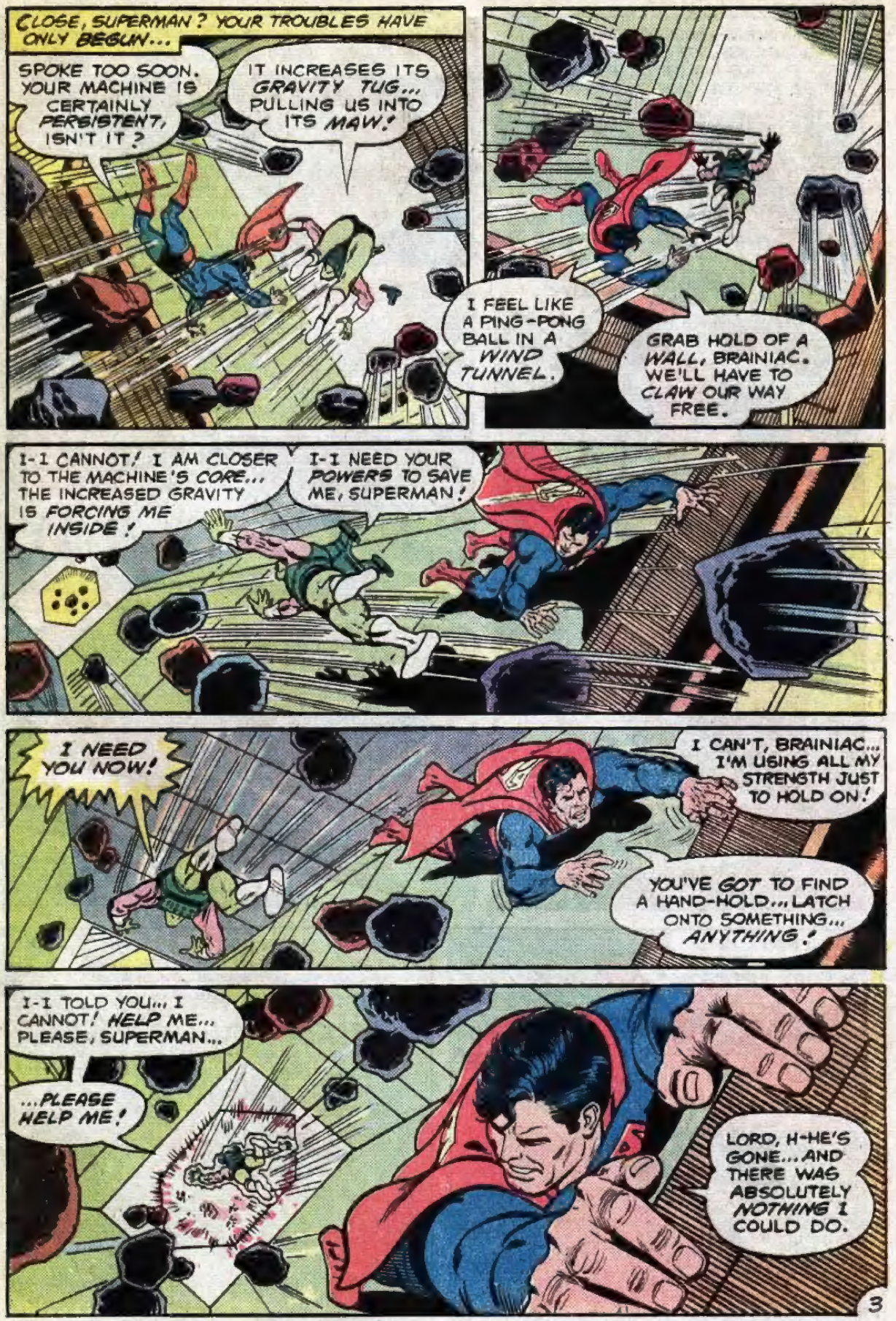
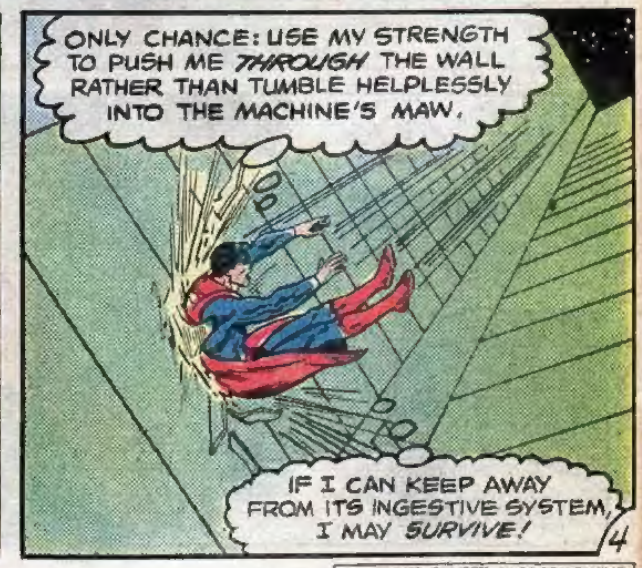

EASIER SAID THAN TRIED! YOUR MACHINE DOESN'T LIKE THE IDEA THAT ITS MEAL IS LEAVING.
AVOID THOSE TENTACLES, SUPERMAN. THEY CAN DIGEST YOU AS EASILY AS THE MACHINE.
EVEN YOUR INVULNERABLE BODY COULD BE DECOMPOSED AND TURNED INTO MORE ENERGY TO POWER THE DEVICE.
BRAINIAC!
BY THE SEVEN CIRCUITS! KEEP STILL, SUPERMAN!
I AM FEEDING IT A HIGHER ENERGY-SOURCE THAN YOU WOULD.
THE MACHINE'S COMPUTERS WILL DIVERT ITS POWER TOWARD MY ION RAY.
HOLD.., HOLD JUST A MOMENT MORE--NOW!
USE ALL YOUR STRENGTH! BREAK FREE!
MAN! TOO CLOSE FOR COMFORT!


CLOSE, SUPERMAN? YOUR TROUBLES HAVE ONLY BEGUN...
SPOKE TOO SOON. YOUR MACHINE IS CERTAINLY PERSISTENT, ISN'T IT?
IT INCREASES ITS GRAVITY TUG... PULLING US INTO ITS MAW!
I FEEL LIKE A PING-PONG BALL IN A WIND TUNNEL.
GRAB HOLD OF A WALL, BRAINIAC. WE'LL HAVE TO CLAW OUR WAY FREE.
I-I CANNOT! I AM CLOSER TO THE MACHINE'S CORE... THE INCREASED GRAVITY IS FORCING ME INSIDE!
I-I NEED YOUR POWERS TO SAVE ME, SUPERMAN!
I NEED YOU NOW!
I CAN'T, BRAINIAC... I'M USING ALL MY STRENGTH JUST TO HOLD ON!
YOU'VE GOT TO FIND A HAND-HOLD... LATCH ONTO SOMETHING... ANYTHING!
I-I TOLD YOU... I CANNOT! HELP ME... PLEASE, SUPERMAN...
...PLEASE HELP ME!
LORD, H-HE'S GONE... AND THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING I COULD DO.

HE'S GONE--AND POSSIBLY THE ANSWERS I'LL NEED TO STOP THIS MACHINE BEFORE IT DESTROYS THE EARTH!
BRAINIAC WANTED TO HELP...HE TRIED TO DISMANTLE THE DEVICE, AND IT COST HIM HIS LIFE.
ALTHOUGH HE WAS MY ENEMY, I AM HURT BY HIS DEATH. FOR A WHILE I WAS ABLE TO RE-PROGRAM HIM--TURN HIM INTO A FORCE FOR GOOD--

"WHEN THE PLANET-EATER DESTROYED THAT OTHER PLANET JUST HOURS AGO--
"--BRAINIAC STILL MANAGED TO SAVE ITS POPULACE BY SHRINKING THE CITY, PLACING IT IN A BOTTLE AS HE HAD DONE WITH KANDOR.

"IF ONLY I DIDN'T HAVE TO REVERSE THAT PROGRAMMING AND TURN HIM EVIL AGAIN--BUT IT WAS MY ONLY HOPE IF WE WERE TO STOP THIS KILLER-MACHINE!"


ONLY CHANCE: USE MY STRENGTH TO PUSH ME THROUGH THE WALL RATHER THAN TUMBLE HELPLESSLY INTO THE MACHINE'S MAW.
IF I CAN KEEP AWAY FROM ITS INGESTIVE SYSTEM, I MAY SURVIVE!

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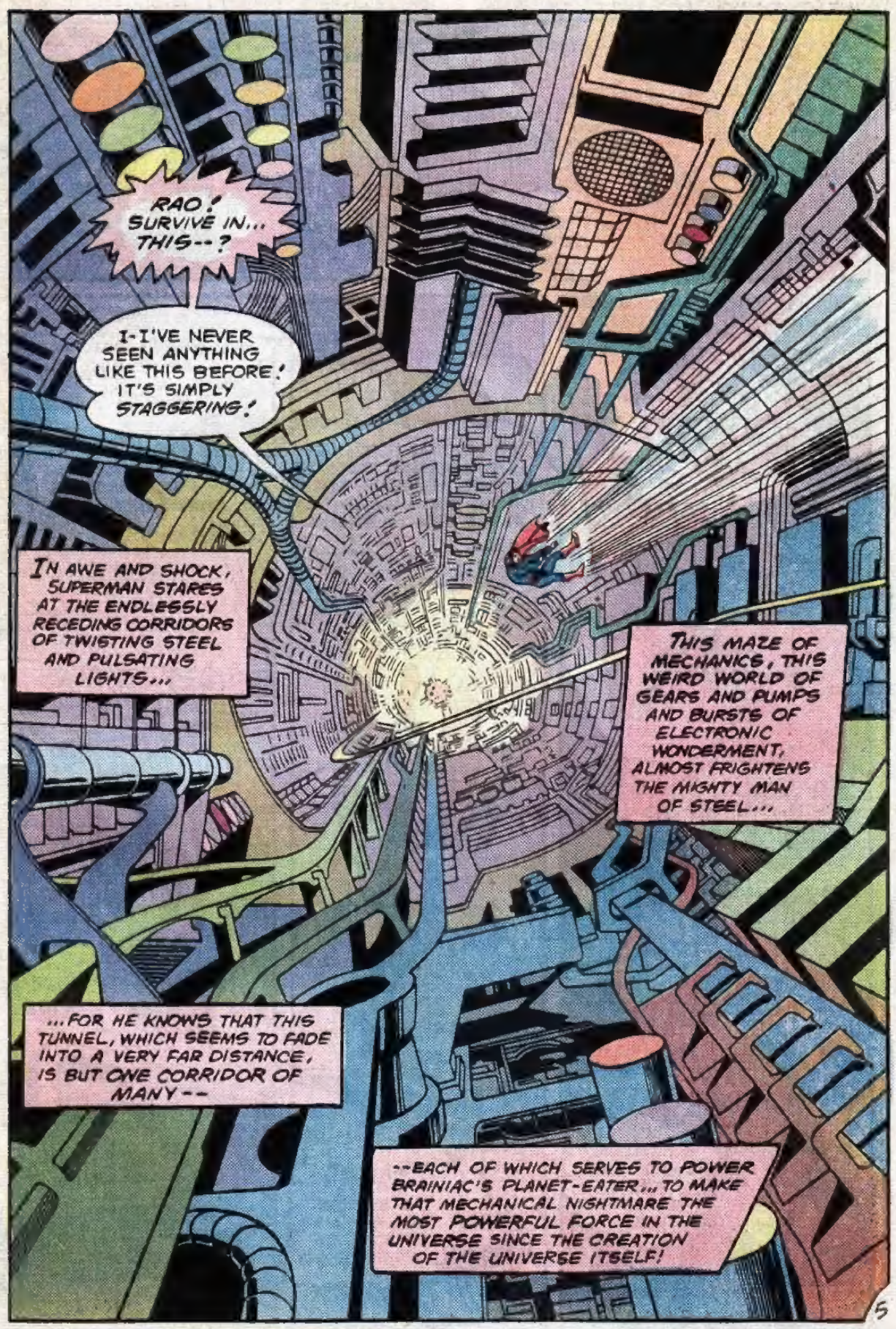
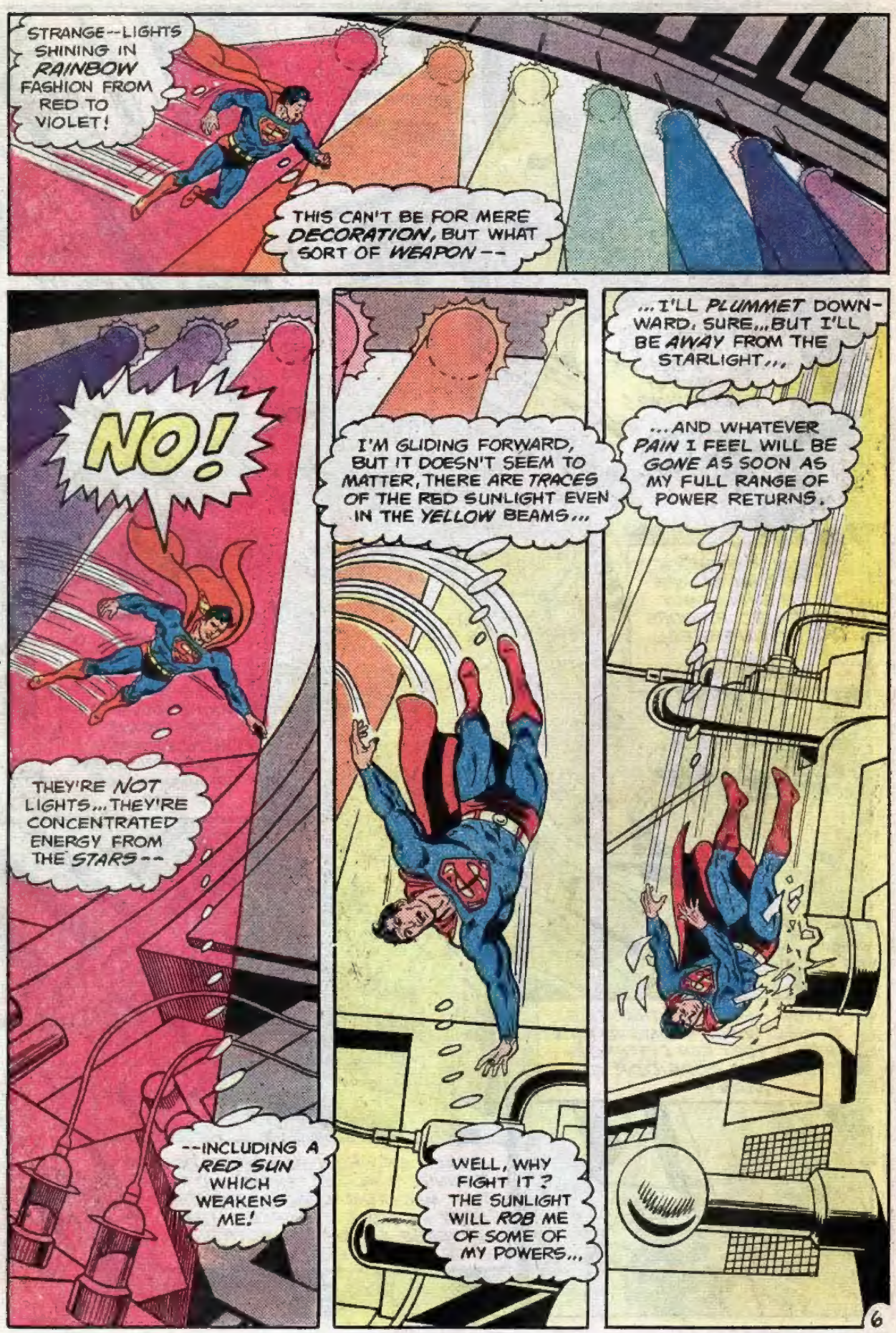
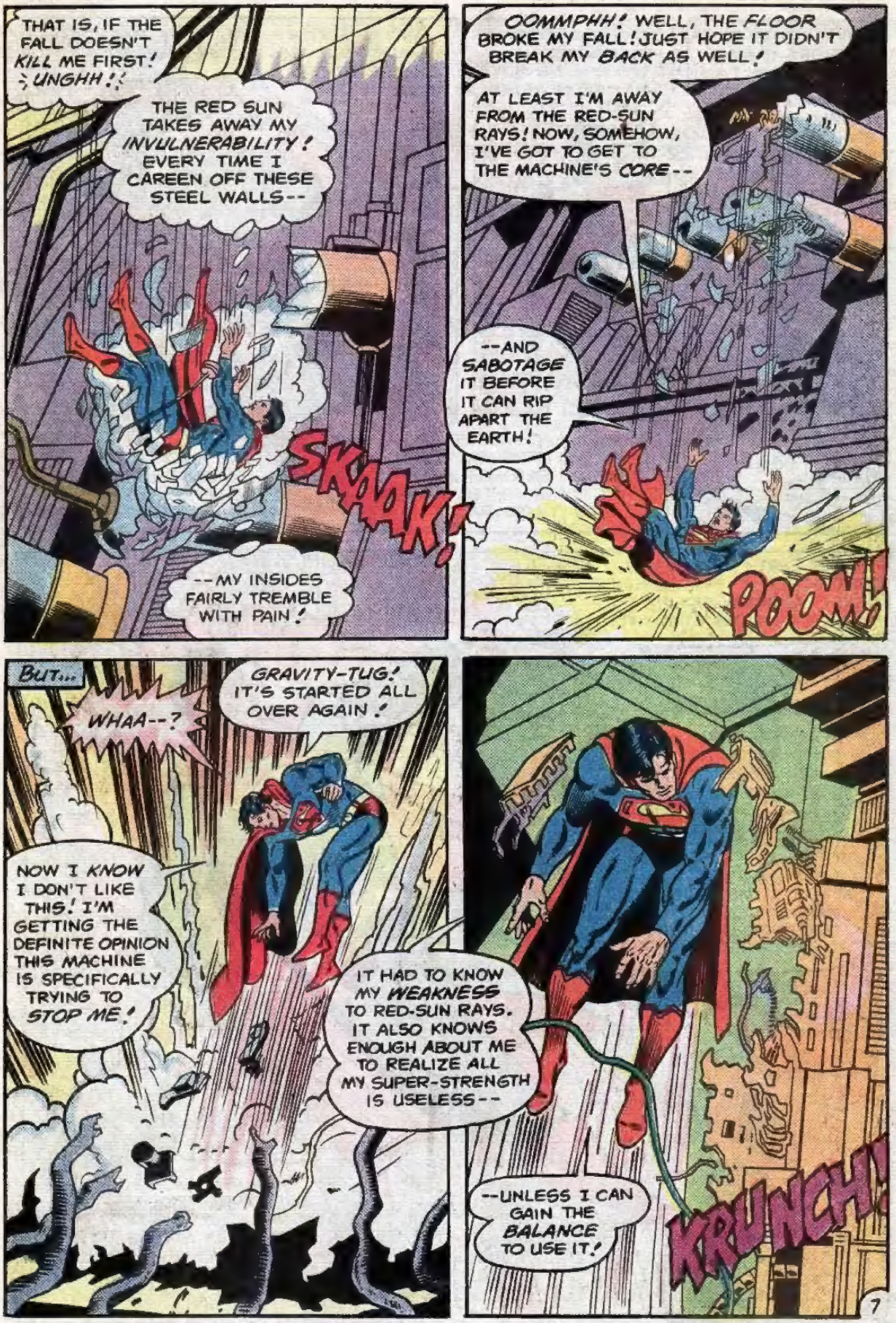

RAO! SURVIVE IN... THIS--?
I-I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS BEFORE! IT'S SIMPLY STAGGERING!
IN AWE AND SHOCK, SUPERMAN STARES AT THE ENDLESSLY RECEDING CORRIDORS OF TWISTING STEEL AND PULSATING LIGHTS...
THIS MAZE OF MECHANICS, THIS WEIRD WORLD OF GEARS AND PUMPS AND BURSTS OF ELECTRONIC WONDERMENT, ALMOST FRIGHTENS THE MIGHTY MAN OF STEEL...
...FOR HE KNOWS THAT THIS TUNNEL, WHICH SEEMS TO FADE INTO A VERY FAR DISTANCE, IS BUT ONE CORRIDOR OF MANY--
--EACH OF WHICH SERVES TO POWER BRAINIAC'S PLANET-EATER... TO MAKE THAT MECHANICAL NIGHTMARE THE MOST POWERFUL FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE SINCE THE CREATION OF THE UNIVERSE ITSELF!

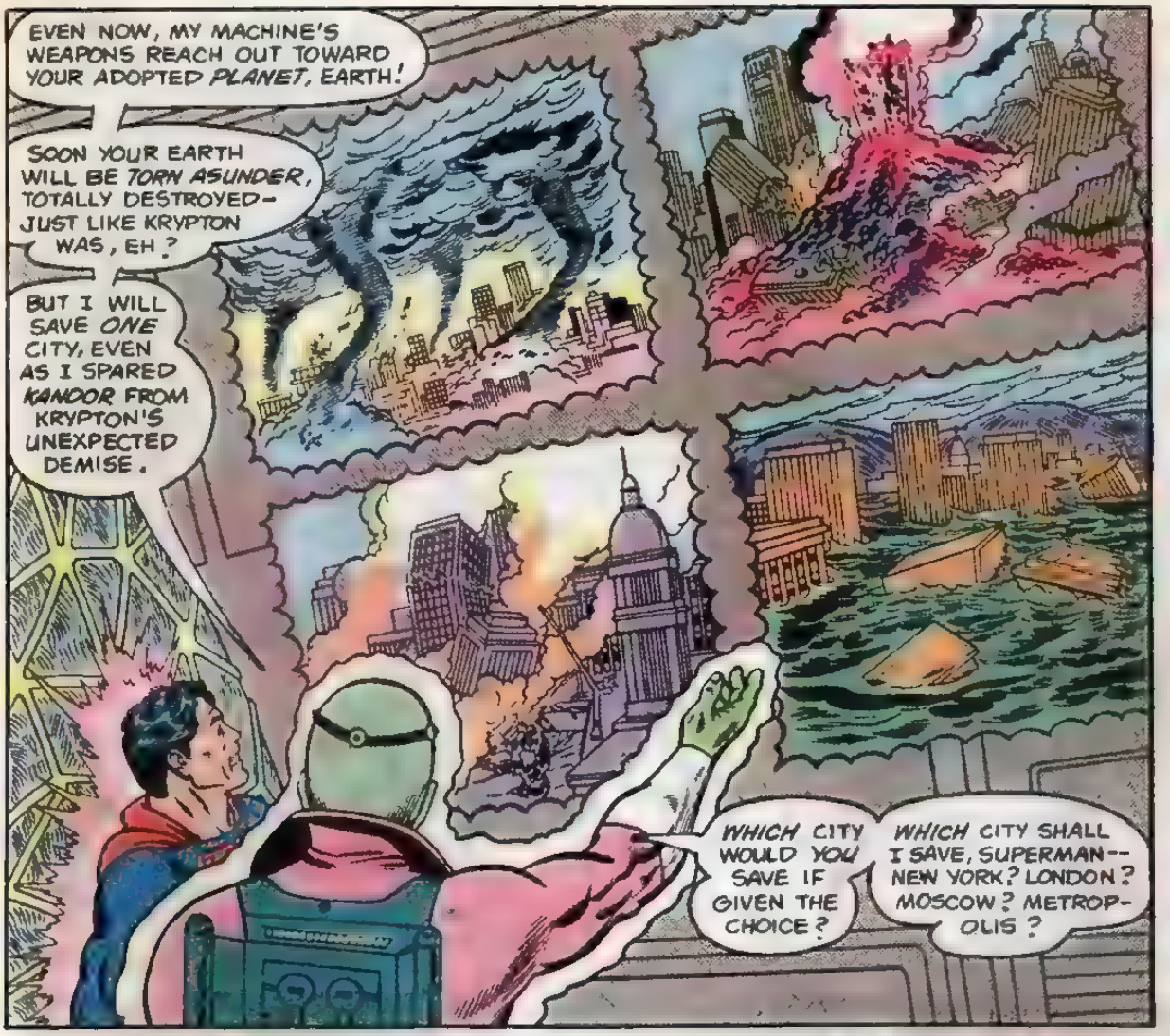

STRANGE--LIGHTS SHINING IN RAINBOW FASHION FROM RED TO VIOLET!
THIS CAN'T BE FOR MERE DECORATION, BUT WHAT SORT OF WEAPON--
NO!
THEY'RE NOT LIGHTS... THEY'RE CONCENTRATED ENERGY FROM THE STARS--
--INCLUDING A RED SUN WHICH WEAKENS ME!
I'M GLIDING FORWARD, BUT IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER, THERE ARE TRACES OF THE RED SUNLIGHT EVEN IN THE YELLOW BEAMS...
WELL, WHY FIGHT IT? THE SUNLIGHT WILL ROB ME OF SOME OF MY POWERS...
...I'LL PLUMMET DOWNWARD, SURE...BUT I'LL BE AWAY FROM THE STARLIGHT...
...AND WHATEVER PAIN I FEEL WILL BE GONE AS SOON AS MY FULL RANGE OF POWER RETURNS.

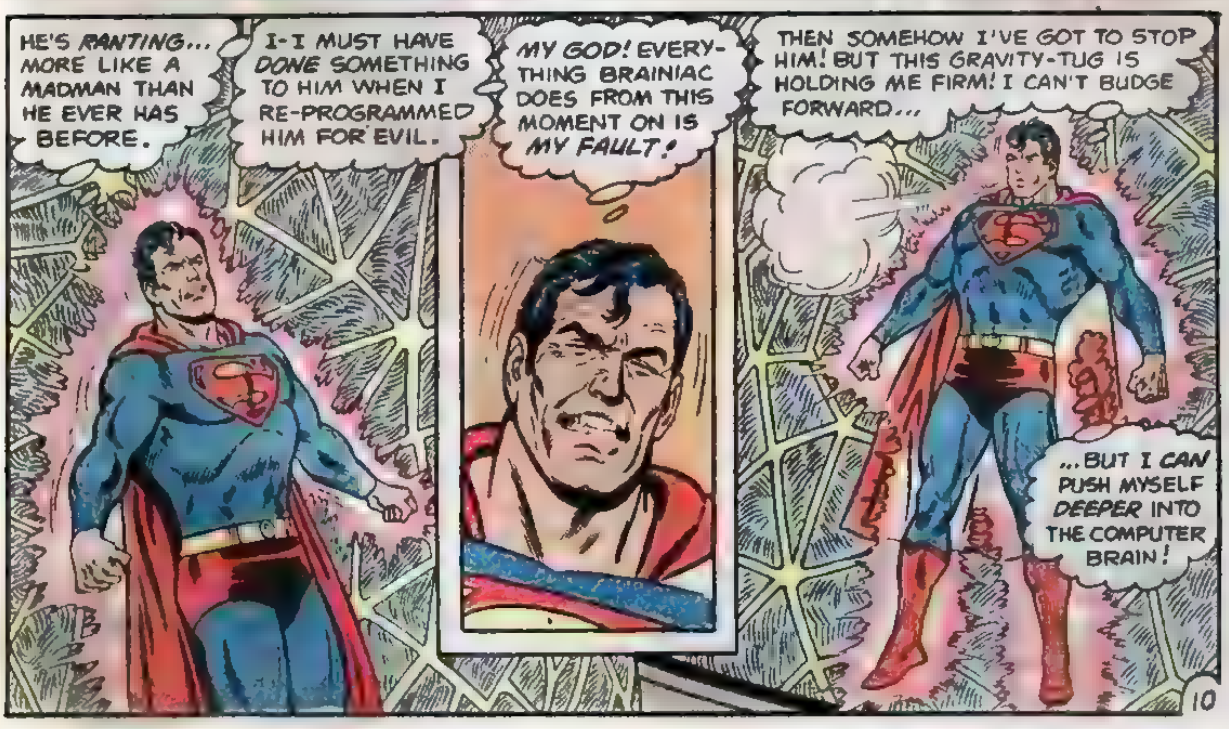

THAT IS, IF THE FALL DOESN'T KILL ME FIRST! ;UNGHH!;
THE RED SUN TAKES AWAY MY INVULNERABILITY! EVERY TIME I CAREEN OFF THESE STEEL WALLS--
SKAAAK!
--MY INSIDES FAIRLY TREMBLE WITH PAIN!
OOMMPHH! WELL, THE FLOOR BROKE MY FALL! JUST HOPE IT DIDN'T BREAK MY BACK AS WELL!
AT LEAST I'M AWAY FROM THE RED-SUN RAYS! NOW, SOMEHOW, I'VE GOT TO GET TO THE MACHINE'S CORE--
--AND SABOTAGE IT BEFORE IT CAN RIP APART THE EARTH!
POOM!
BUT...
WHAA--?
GRAVITY-TUG! IT'S STARTED ALL OVER AGAIN!
NOW I KNOW I DON'T LIKE THIS! I'M GETTING THE DEFINITE OPINION THIS MACHINE IS SPECIFICALLY TRYING TO STOP ME!
IT HAD TO KNOW MY WEAKNESS TO RED-SUN RAYS. IT ALSO KNOWS ENOUGH ABOUT ME TO REALIZE ALL MY SUPER-STRENGTH IS USELESS--
--UNLESS I CAN GAIN THE BALANCE TO USE IT!
KRUNCH!

AND IT'S DOING ITS LEVEL BEST TO MAKE CERTAIN I DON'T!
IT'S TOSSING ME BACK AND FORTH WITHOUT GIVING ME A MOMENT TO FOCUS ON A COUNTER-ATTACK!
HOLD IT...
...THE GRAVITY-TUG'S INCREASING... IT'S DRAGGING ME ACROSS HALF THIS BLASTED MACHINE!
BRAINIAC SHOWED ME HIS ORIGINAL PLANS BEFORE THE PLANET-EATER REBUILT ITSELF--
--AND IF SUPER-MEMORY SERVES, ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THIS WALL...
...IS THE MACHINE'S COMPUTER BRAIN!
I'VE BEEN A FOOL! I SHOULD HAVE COME HERE RIGHT FROM THE START--
--BUT EARTH'S POSSIBLE DESTRUCTION, THEN BRAINIAC'S DEATH--FRAZZLED ME! I WASN'T THINKING STRAIGHT.
A MISTAKE WHICH SHALL COST YOU YOUR LIFE, SUPERMAN!
HUH? BRAINIAC'S VOICE? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE! NO... BRAINIAC ORIGINATED THE MACHINE--OF COURSE IT WOULD POSSESS HIS "VOICE"!
YOU ARE WRONG, SUPERMAN. OR DOES YOUR LOWLY HUMAN MIND SIMPLY IGNORE THE OBVIOUS?

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING.

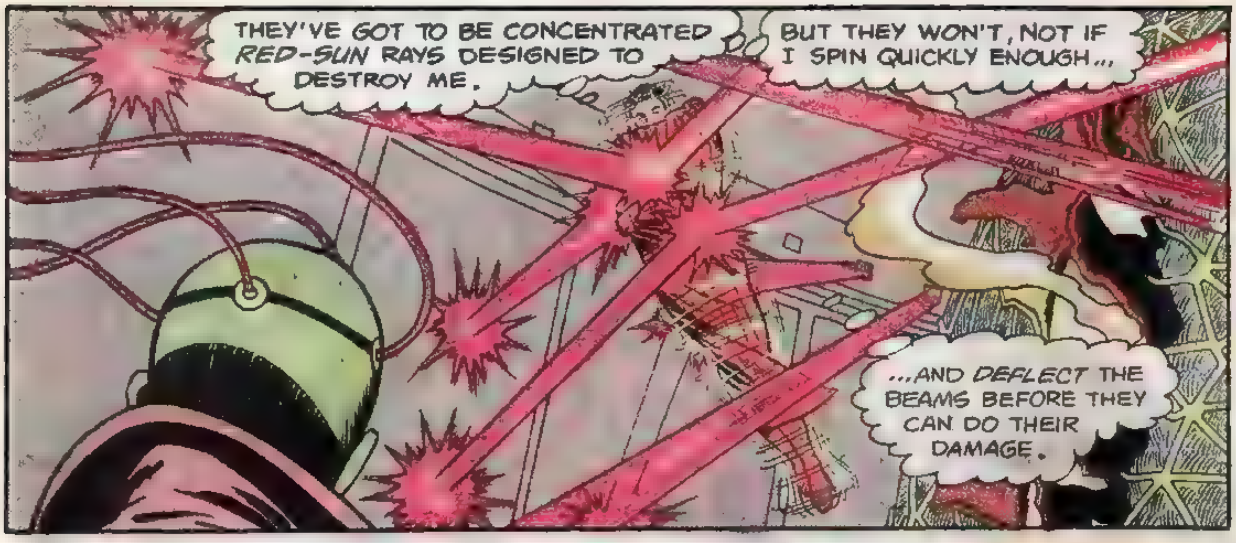
I AM ALIVE, MY ONE-TIME ALLY. FURTHER PROOF THAT MY TWELFTH-LEVEL COMPUTER BRAIN IS FAR SUPERIOR TO YOURS!
I-I DON'T UNDERSTAND.
OF COURSE YOU DON'T, YOU WITLESS HUMAN. NOW, FOR YOUR SAKE, BE SILENT AS I INCREASE THE GRAVITY - PULL TO ONE MILLION TIMES THAT OF YOUR NATIVE WORLD, KRYPTON.
IS THIS PAINFUL, SUPERMAN? DO YOU FEEL AS IF YOUR VERY BONES ARE BEING CRUSHED?
W-WHY ARE Y-YOU DOING THIS...?
BECAUSE THIS IS WHAT I EXIST FOR, SUPERMAN!
MY ORIGINAL PROGRAMMING, MY ORIGINAL CREATION, WAS CONCEIVED FOR ONE PURPOSE ONLY--CONQUEST!
MY MACHINE WILL UNDO THE FABRIC OF THIS UNIVERSE. IT WILL CREATE A NEW WORLD... ONE WHICH I SHALL RULE!
AND THAT CITY I SAVED WHILE UNDER YOUR RE-PROGRAMMING...
...SHALL BE THE FIRST OF MANY CITIES FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE SAVED AS I DESTROY THEIR WORLDS!
THE FIRST OF MANY CITIES THAT I SHALL TAKE AS MY OWN!

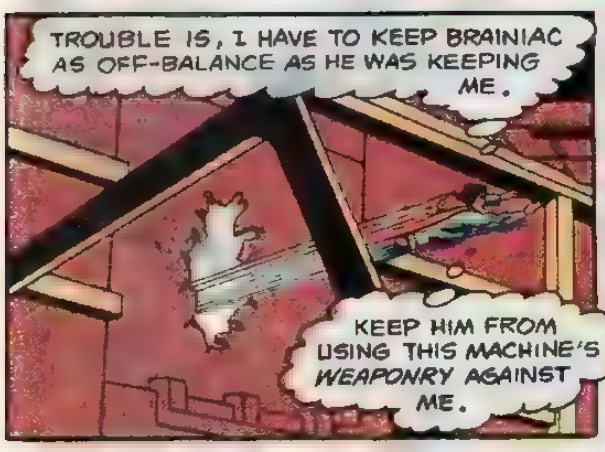

EVEN NOW, MY MACHINE'S WEAPONS REACH OUT TOWARD YOUR ADOPTED *PLANET*, EARTH!
SOON YOUR EARTH WILL BE *TORN ASUNDER*, TOTALLY DESTROYED— JUST LIKE KRYPTON WAS, EH?
BUT I WILL SAVE *ONE* CITY, EVEN AS I SPARED *KANDOR* FROM KRYPTON'S UNEXPECTED DEMISE.
WHICH CITY WOULD *YOU* SAVE IF GIVEN THE CHOICE?
WHICH CITY SHALL I SAVE, SUPERMAN— NEW YORK? LONDON? MOSCOW? METROPOLIS?

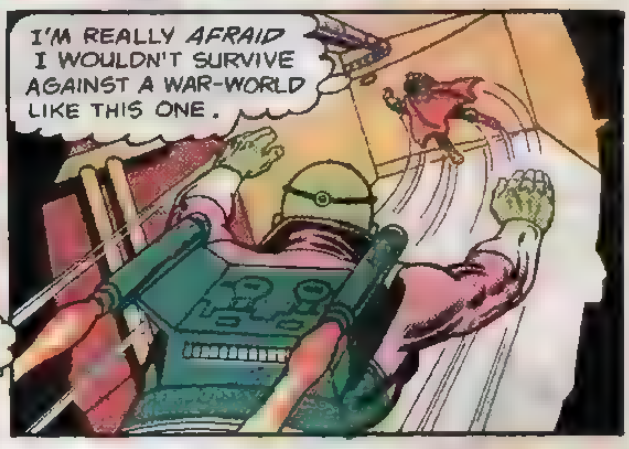

HE'S *RANTING*... MORE LIKE A MADMAN THAN HE EVER HAS BEFORE.
I-I MUST HAVE *DONE* SOMETHING TO HIM WHEN I RE-PROGRAMMED HIM FOR EVIL.
MY GOD! EVERYTHING BRAINIAC DOES FROM THIS MOMENT ON IS *MY FAULT!*
THEN SOMEHOW I'VE GOT TO STOP HIM! BUT THIS GRAVITY-TUG IS HOLDING ME FIRM! I CAN'T BUDGE FORWARD...
...BUT I *CAN* PUSH MYSELF *DEEPER* INTO THE COMPUTER BRAIN!

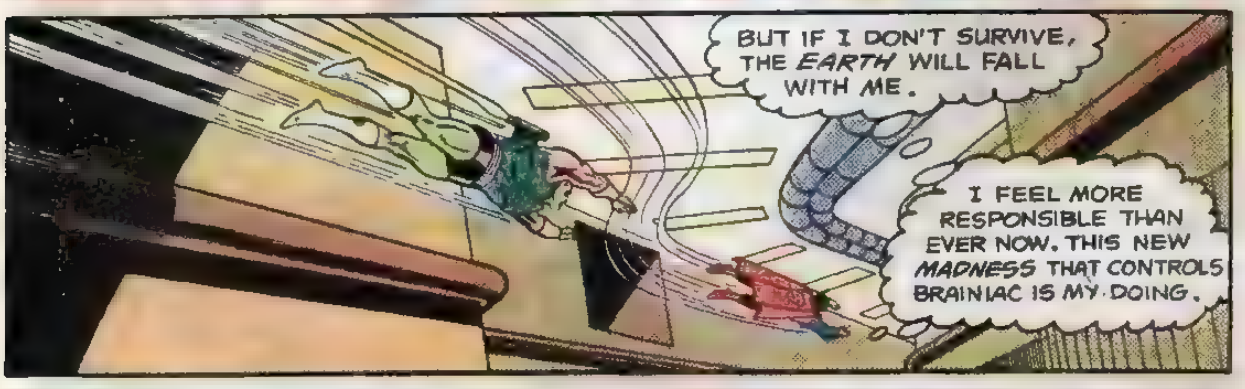
MY SUPER-BREATH'S PUSHING ME BACK. I CAN FEEL THE STEEL WALL BUCKLING BEHIND ME.
I JUST HAVE TO MOVE FASTER, BEFORE BRAINIAC CAN STOP ME.
IT HAPPENS WITH EYE-BLURRING RAPIDITY. ONE-MOMENT SUPERMAN SEEMS TO STAND STARK STILL.
THEN THE NEXT, HE IS A WRITHING OUTLINE CAUGHT IN THE CORUSCATING PAROXYSM OF FIRE AND LIGHT...
YAGSHHH
SHOOOMM
BRAINIAC AT LAST SEES WHAT IS HAPPENING, BUT HE IS FAR TOO SLOW TO ACT...

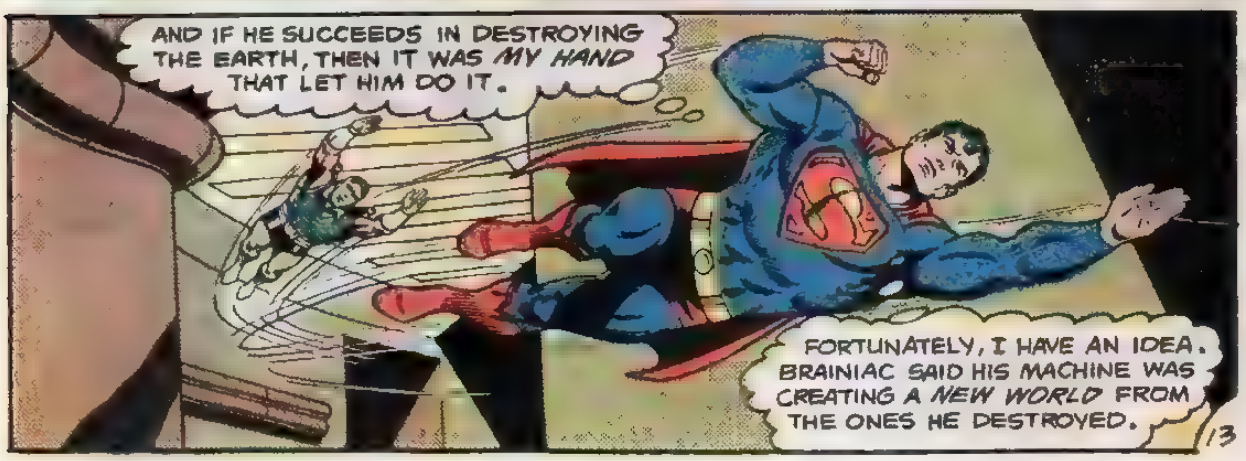
YOU HAVE DESTROYED IT, SUPERMAN! YOU HAVE DESTROYED EVERYTHING!
THAT WAS THE IDEA, PAL!
NOW, I'M AFRAID, I HAVE TO DEAL WITH YOU!
I CAN'T LET YOU REMAIN THE WAY YOU ARE!
I TOLD YOU BEFORE, SUPERMAN. THAT LAST RE-PROGRAMMING YOU DID ON ME WAS THE LAST I COULD HAVE.
WHAT I AM NOW IS WHAT I SHALL BE UNTIL THE DAY OF NON-EXISTENCE!
BUT THIS SUITS ME, SUPERMAN. THE NEW POWER I FEEL COURSING WITHIN ME...
...ALMOST MAKES ME GIDDY. THIS IS HOW I SHOULD HAVE ALWAYS BEEN!
MY COMPUTERS CONTROL ME... AND THROUGH THEM I NOW CONTROL THIS MACHINE.
I HAVE PLUGGED MYSELF INTO THE PLANET-EATER. I CAN NOW COMMAND ITS EVERY ACTION!
AND MY FIRST COMMAND, SUPERMAN--IS FOR IT TO CAUSE YOUR DEATH!
CRIMSON BEAMS FLASHING OUT AT ME. IF THEY'RE WHAT I THINK THEY ARE, I'D BEST GET UNDER CAPE-COVER FAST!


THEY'VE GOT TO BE CONCENTRATED *RED-SUN* RAYS DESIGNED TO DESTROY ME.
BUT THEY WON'T, NOT IF I SPIN QUICKLY ENOUGH...
...AND *DEFLECT* THE BEAMS BEFORE THEY CAN DO THEIR DAMAGE.


TROUBLE IS, I HAVE TO KEEP BRAINIAC AS OFF-BALANCE AS HE WAS KEEPING ME.
KEEP HIM FROM USING THIS MACHINE'S *WEAPONRY* AGAINST ME.


I'M REALLY *AFRAID* I WOULDN'T SURVIVE AGAINST A WAR-WORLD LIKE THIS ONE.


BUT IF I DON'T SURVIVE, THE *EARTH* WILL FALL WITH ME.
I FEEL MORE RESPONSIBLE THAN EVER NOW. THIS NEW *MADNESS* THAT CONTROLS BRAINIAC IS MY DOING.

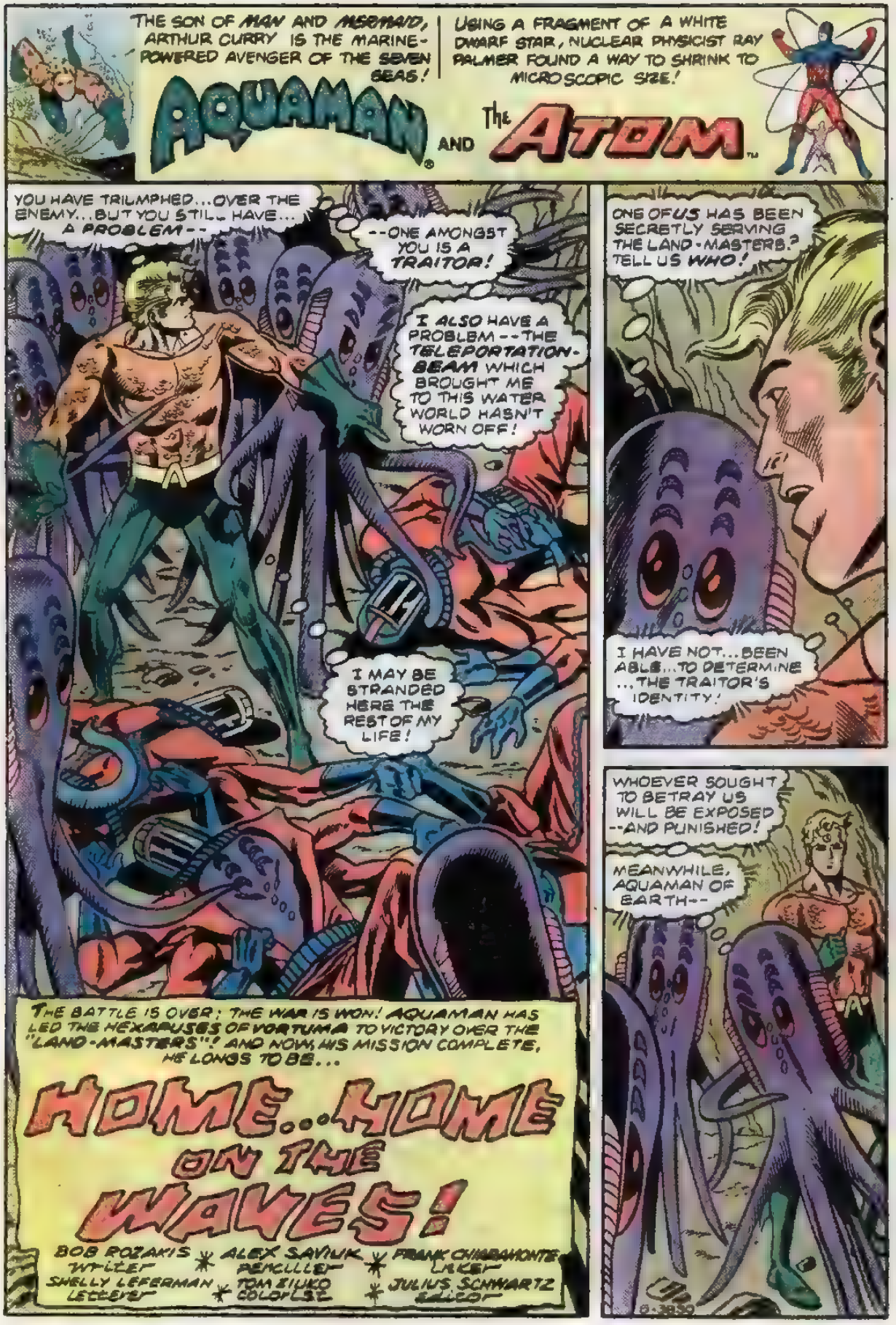

AND IF HE SUCCEEDS IN DESTROYING THE EARTH, THEN IT WAS *MY HAND* THAT LET HIM DO IT.
FORTUNATELY, I HAVE AN IDEA. BRAINIAC SAID HIS MACHINE WAS CREATING A *NEW WORLD* FROM THE ONES HE DESTROYED.

THAT MEANS THERE SHOULD BE A PLANET UNDER THIS METAL SHELL!
BRAINIAC'S CLOSE BEHIND...HE'S NO LONGER NEAR THE CENTRAL BRAIN COMPLEX...
...WHICH MEANS I CAN ACT WITHOUT FEAR OF HIS UNLEASHING MORE WEAPONS AGAINST ME.
BUT I HAVE ONLY SECONDS TO MOVE BEFORE HE REPLUGS HIMSELF IN WITH HIS WEAPONS' SYSTEM.
SECONDS TO USE ALL MY STRENGTH, EVERY FIBER OF MY BEING WORKING FOR JUST ONE END!
I'VE GOT TO PEEL AWAY THIS OUTER SHELL...
...SHATTER ALL OF BRAINIAC'S HOPES FOR CONQUEST--
--AND REACH THE PLANET THAT IS BEING CREATED BELOW!

THERE IT IS, WHICH MEANS IT'S ALL TRUE. THERE'S A WORLD DEVELOPING DOWN THERE--
--ITS CONTINENTS ARE FORMING, THERE'S AN ATMOSPHERE, EVEN WATER.
BUT HOW MANY WORLDS HAD TO DIE FOR THIS PLANET TO BE BORN?
CEASE YOUR ACTIONS, SUPERMAN! DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU ARE DOING?
I WAS NOT READY TO SHUCK THIS PLANET'S STEEL SHELL!
I KNOW THAT, BRAINIAC, WHICH IS WHY IT HAS TO BE DONE!
BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY I'M DOING THIS AS MUCH FOR YOU AS I AM FOR THE PEOPLE OF EARTH.
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO YOU ISN'T YOUR FAULT, BRAINIAC, BUT STILL I'VE GOT TO MAKE CERTAIN YOUR PLANS ARE STOPPED.
YOUR MACHINE HAS ALREADY TAKEN TOO MANY LIVES.
YOU WON'T STOP ME, SUPERMAN--
15

I'M TRULY SORRY FOR THIS, BRAINIAC. FOR A BRIEF TIME YOU TRIED TO HELP THE PEOPLES OF THE UNIVERSE--
--AND PERHAPS THIS IS A SORRY WAY TO THANK YOU. BUT I'VE GOT NO CHOICE.
WHAT ARE YOU DOING? STOP IT!
IN A FASHION I'M MAKING YOUR WISH COME TRUE! YOU WANTED A PLANET OF YOUR OWN--
--NOW YOU'VE BECOME PART OF ONE--ONE WHICH SHALL HARDEN AROUND YOU...
...ONE WHICH WILL KEEP YOU TRAPPED UNTIL I CAN FIND SOME WAY TO RE-PROGRAM YOU AGAIN WITHOUT DESTROYING YOU IN THE PROCESS.
FOR BETTER OR WORSE, BRAINIAC, YOU HAVE YOUR PLANET!
AND I THE PAINFUL TASK OF FINDING THE WAY TO SET YOU FREE!

SOME TIME PASSES, AND...
I'VE GIVEN THE PLANET A SHOVE... IT WILL ASSUME ORBIT AROUND A DISTANT SUN.
AND THAT CITY BRAINIAC SAVED WILL BE THE PLANET'S NEW INHABITANTS. THEY'LL HAVE A NEW HOME AND A NEW BEGINNING.
THEIR NEW WORLD WAS BORN OUT OF HORROR, OUT OF THE SHATTERED REMAINS OF UNTOLD PLANETS AND PEOPLE...
...BUT FROM THOSE ASHES OF DESPAIR THERE IS THE HOPE OF THAT CITY'S MILLIONS FOR A LONG AND HAPPY LIFE.
PERHAPS THAT WILL BE BRAINIAC'S LEGACY. FOR A BRIEF MOMENT HE TRIED TO SAVE A UNIVERSE FROM HIS OWN EVIL--
--AND FROM HIS DEEDS A NEW WORLD WAS GIVEN LIFE.
IN ALL, THAT'S NOT TERRIBLY BAD... NOT BAD AT ALL!
AND BELOW, THE QUAKES WHICH RAVAGED THE PLANET EARTH COME TO A HURRIED END...
THE TIDAL WAVES RECEDE, AND OUR PLANET IS SAFE ONCE AGAIN...
OUR PLANET IS SAFE, BUT IS THE DAILY PLANET SAFE? THE ANSWER COMES NEXT ISSUE WHEN SUPERMAN MUST FACE...
The DEVIL and the DAILY PLANET


THE SON OF MAN AND MERMAID, ARTHUR CURRY IS THE MARINE-POWERED AVENGER OF THE SEVEN SEAS!
AQUAMAN
AND
THE ATOM
USING A FRAGMENT OF A WHITE DWARF STAR, NUCLEAR PHYSICIST RAY PALMER FOUND A WAY TO SHRINK TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE!
YOU HAVE TRIUMPHED...OVER THE ENEMY...BUT YOU STILL HAVE... A PROBLEM--
--ONE AMONGST YOU IS A TRAITOR!
I ALSO HAVE A PROBLEM--THE TELEPORTATION-BEAM WHICH BROUGHT ME TO THIS WATER WORLD HASN'T WORN OFF!
I MAY BE STRANDED HERE THE REST OF MY LIFE!
ONE OF US HAS BEEN SECRETLY SERVING THE LAND-MASTERS? TELL US WHO!
I HAVE NOT...BEEN ABLE...TO DETERMINE ...THE TRAITOR'S IDENTITY!
WHOEVER SOUGHT TO BETRAY US WILL BE EXPOSED --AND PUNISHED!
MEANWHILE, AQUAMAN OF EARTH--
THE BATTLE IS OVER; THE WAR IS WON! AQUAMAN HAS LED THE HEXAPUSES OF VORTUMA TO VICTORY OVER THE "LAND-MASTERS"! AND NOW, HIS MISSION COMPLETE, HE LONGS TO BE...
HOME...HOME ON THE WAVES!
BOB ROZAKIS WRITER
ALEX SAVIUK PENCILLER
FRANK CHIARAMONTE INKER
SHELLY LEFFERMAN LETTERER
TOM ZIUKO COLORIST
JULIUS SCHWARTZ EDITOR

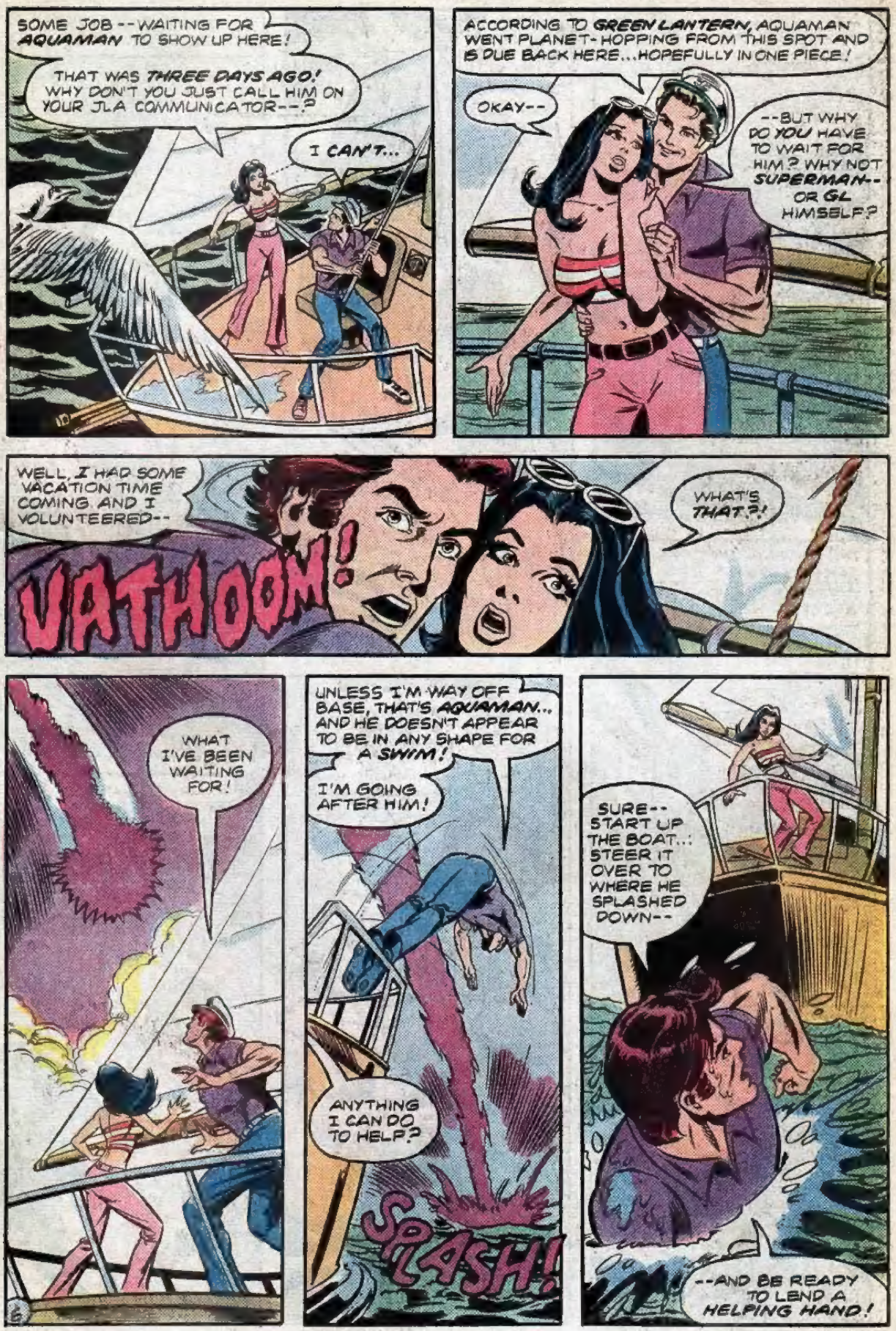
--I SENSE IN YOU A DESIRE TO RETURN TO YOUR WORLD! HOW WILL THIS BE DONE?
WITH YOUR HELP...I HOPE!
THIS "PROFESSOR HEXAPUS" INVENTED THE TELEPORTATION-BEAM THAT FIRST BROUGHT AIR WAVE HERE AND THEN ME!
IT WAS ONLY BY AIR WAVE ENERGIZING ME ON EARTH THAT I WAS ABLE TO TELEPORT HERE!
WHEN HE WAS ON VORTUMA, HE REMAINED ENERGIZED ALL THE TIME--AND WHEN THE BEAM WORE OFF, HE AUTOMATICALLY RETURNED TO EARTH!
SO THE SOLUTION MUST BE TO RE-ENERGIZE ME!
SHORTLY...IN THE SCIENTIST'S LABORATORY...
ACCORDING TO MY TESTS, ENERGY-LEVELS IN YOUR BODY AT TIME OF TRANSMISSION WERE EXCEEDINGLY HIGH!
I AM AFRAID THERE IS NO POWER-GENERATOR IN VORTUMA TO REPLICATE SUCH FORCE!
THAT IS... BAD NEWS!
NOT NECESSARILY! THERE ARE OTHER METHODS...
WHAT--?! THE PROFESSOR'S ASSISTANT--
--ABOUT TO SMASH THAT MACHINE!
NO YOU DON'T--TRAITOR!
MY OWN ASSISTANT? A SERVANT OF THE LAND-MASTERS? ARE YOU SURE?
OF COURSE...THIS ATTEMPTED ACT...OF SABOTAGE...PROVES IT!
HE BETRAYED...YOUR SECRET HIDE-OUT...TO THE LAND-MASTERS!
HE SPIED ON YOU... TOLD THEM...OF YOUR EXPERIMENTS!
2

I SHOULD HAVE REALIZED IT ALL ALONG!
THE REASON THE CREATURE ORIGINALLY LATCHED ON TO AIR WAVE WAS TO LEARN MORE FOR HIS MASTERS!
HE COULDN'T HAVE KNOWN HE'D END UP ON EARTH--
-- BUT HE LUCKED OUT WHEN I BROUGHT HIM BACK TO VORTUMA!
IMPRISON THE TRAITOR!
IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE GAVE HIMSELF AWAY-- AND SHOWED HIS TRUE COLORS TO THE "PROFESSOR"!
YOU WERE ABOUT TO SPEAK.. OF "OTHER" METHODS?
YES...
...PERHAPS THE HIGH ENERGY-LEVEL CAN BE MATCHED BY THE VIBRUS!
"VIBRUS"?! WHAT IS THAT...A MACHINE...?
NO...A DENIZEN OF THE VORTUM DEPTHS! IT IS SO LOW IN INTELLIGENCE, WE CANNOT EVEN COMMUNICATE WITH IT!
HOWEVER, IT EXPELS HIGH LEVELS OF VIBRATION-ENERGY WHEN ATTACKED!
IT'S WORTH... A TRY! LEAD ME...TO ONE!
THE DANGER MAY BE TOO GREAT FOR YOU! PERHAPS ANOTHER METHOD...?
BUT THE SEA KING IS NOT INTERESTED IN FURTHER, LESS SURE, SPECULATION, AND SHORTLY...
YONDER IS THE VIBRUS! TAKE CARE IN YOUR ATTACK!
"TAKE CARE" IS RIGHT!
IF THE ENERGY I RAISE ISN'T HIGH ENOUGH TO TELEPORT ME HOME, I COULD BE "DIGGING MY GRAVE" HERE!
3

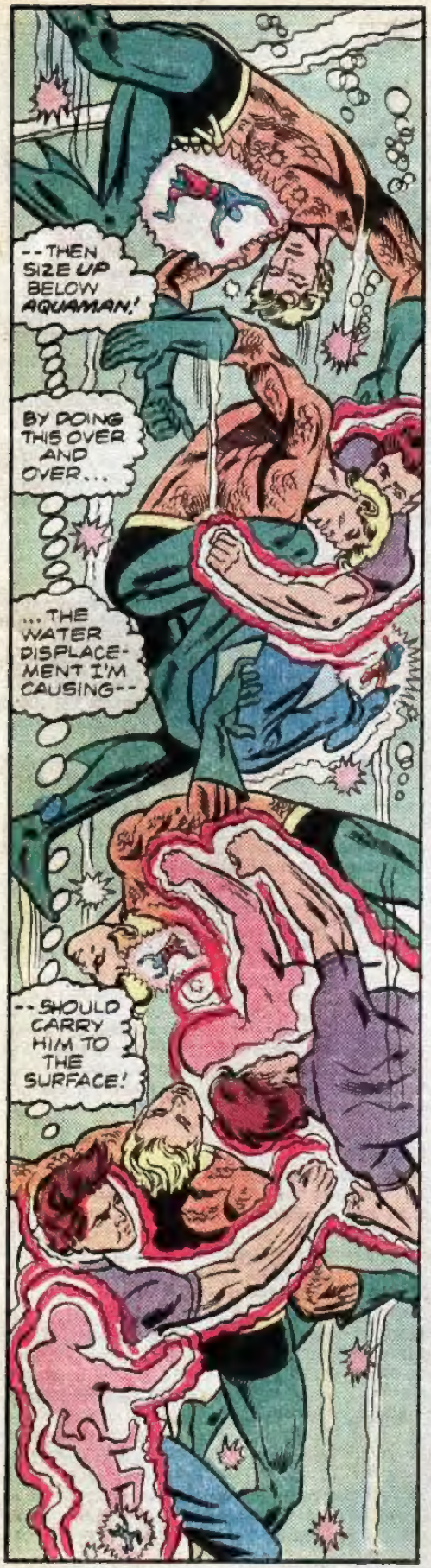
HERE GOES CHARGE NUMBER ONE!
LET'S HOPE IT PROVOKES A GOOD COUNTER-CHARGE FROM THE VIBRUS!
COULDN'T EVEN GET CLOSE ENOUGH TO HIT IT!
GOT TO TRY ANOTHER TACTIC--!
SWISH
THAT FLIP DID IT! ITS TAIL LASHED OUT AT WHERE I WAS--!
OWWW! DISCHARGING ELECTRIC-LIKE BOLTS FROM ITS TUSKS--!
GIVING ME A SPLITTING HEADACHE!
STILL NOT GETTING A HIGH-ENOUGH ENERGY-RISE OUT OF IT!
IT SIMPLY GOES BACK TO ITS FEEDING--
--SO MAYBE IF I GRAB THE FOOD OUT OF ITS MOUTH--
RRRRR
4

CONTINUED ON 2ND PAGE FOLLOWING

SUDDENLY, A VIBRATORY AURA ENCOMPASSES THE SEA KING OF EARTH...
ENTIRE BODY... WRACKED WITH SHOCKING PAIN...!
AND THEN, AS IF SATISFIED THAT HIS ASSAILANT HAS BEEN "DISPOSED OF"...
...THE VIBRUS RESUMES ITS REPAST...
MEANWHILE (AS THEY SAY), BACK ON EARTH WITH RAY (THE ATOM) PALMER AND HIS WIFE JEAN...
BOY, THIS IS THE LIFE, EH, JEAN?
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU TO SAY THAT, DAR-LING...
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT I THINK SITTING OUT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN IS "THE LIFE"?
WHEN YOU TOLD ME WE WERE TAKING A VACATION CRUISE, I THOUGHT THAT MEANT ON A LUXURY LINER!
BUT, HONEY, I EXPLAINED THIS TRIP WOULD COMBINE A BIT OF "ATOM" BUSINESS AND LOTS OF PLEASURE!
WE'LL VISIT ALL THE PORTS YOU WANT TO... SOON AS MY JOB IS DONE!
5

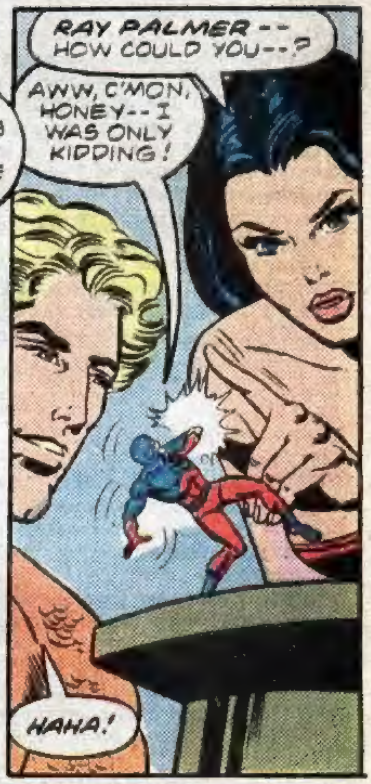

SOME JOB--WAITING FOR AQUAMAN TO SHOW UP HERE!
THAT WAS THREE DAYS AGO! WHY DON'T YOU JUST CALL HIM ON YOUR JLA COMMUNICATOR--?
I CAN'T...
ACCORDING TO GREEN LANTERN, AQUAMAN WENT PLANET-HOPPING FROM THIS SPOT AND IS DUE BACK HERE...HOPEFULLY IN ONE PIECE!
OKAY--
--BUT WHY DO YOU HAVE TO WAIT FOR HIM? WHY NOT SUPERMAN--OR GL HIMSELF?
WELL, I HAD SOME VACATION TIME COMING AND I VOLUNTEERED--
VATHOOM!
WHAT'S THAT?!
WHAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR!
UNLESS I'M WAY OFF BASE, THAT'S AQUAMAN... AND HE DOESN'T APPEAR TO BE IN ANY SHAPE FOR A SWIM!
I'M GOING AFTER HIM!
ANYTHING I CAN DO TO HELP?
SPLASH!
SURE--START UP THE BOAT...STEER IT OVER TO WHERE HE SPLASHED DOWN--
--AND BE READY TO LEND A HELPING HAND!

THIS IS MORE OF A JOB FOR RAY PALMER THAN THE ATOM!
MY ABILITY TO SHRINK TO MICROSCOPIC SIZE ISN'T OF ANY HELP IN THIS SITUATION!
NOW TO DIVE DOWN AND TAKE A LOOK!
THE SALT WATER IS GOING TO DO A REAL NUMBER ON MY EYES!
60 SECONDS LATER, RAY COMES UP FOR AIR...
NO LUCK--?
IT'S ONLY MY FIRST TRY--!
KEEP LOOKING AROUND IN CASE HE SURFACES AND NEEDS HELP!
THEN, A DEEPER DIVE-AND-SEARCH OPERATION...
THERE HE IS--THE TRIP KNOCKED HIM OUT!
HOPE I CAN HOLD MY BREATH LONG ENOUGH TO BRING HIM TO THE SURFACE!
OOMPH! HE'S A DEAD WEIGHT... NO WAY I CAN PULL HIM UP!
IF RAY PALMER CAN'T DO IT, MAYBE THE ATOM CAN ASSIST IN THIS SEA-RESCUE!
I'LL SIZE DOWN--
7


--THEN SIZE UP BELOW AQUAMAN!
BY DOING THIS OVER AND OVER...
...THE WATER DISPLACEMENT I'M CAUSING--
--SHOULD CARRY HIM TO THE SURFACE!

SEVERAL SIZE-CHANGES LATER...
RAY--THANK GOODNESS!
YOU WERE DOWN SO LONG, I WAS AFRAID YOU'D DROWNED!
HEY, I MAY NOT COME FROM ATLANTIS, BUT I DO KNOW HOW TO HOLD MY BREATH!

AND WHEN THE TINY TITAN AND SEA KING HAVE RECOVERED...
--SO EVIDENTLY THE VIBRUS-BLAST WAS ENOUGH TO ENERGIZE ME AND TELEPORT ME BACK HOME!
IT SOUNDS FASCINATING --BUT ARE SURE YOU'RE ALL RIGHT?
LISTEN, IF YOU WANT TO SUE THAT VIBRUS CREATURE--MY WIFE'S A LAWYER! SHE'LL TAKE ANY CASE IF THE FEE IS HIGH ENOUGH!


RAY PALMER -- HOW COULD YOU--?
AWW, C'MON, HONEY--I WAS ONLY KIDDING!
HAHA!

WELL, TIME TO SWIM HOME! WHERE ARE YOU TWO HEADED?
TO CURAÇAO--

--AND FUN, FUN, FUN!
NEXT ISSUE: "NO TIME OFF FOR HEROES!"